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Identical letters dated 27 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 April 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning an act of armed aggression undertaken by Kuwaiti naval patrol boats against a fishing boat in Iraq's territorial waters on 16 April 2000, and Iraq's reaffirmation of its right to take the necessary measures to defend the sanctity of its waters and territory and to seek compensation for the material and moral damage it has sustained as a result of these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-40898 (E) 280400 010500

Annex to the identical letters dated 27 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that at 1900 hours on 16 April 2000, two Kuwaiti naval patrol boats, each carrying a crew of four armed military personnel, entered Iraq's territorial waters, intercepted an Iraqi fishing launch named *Al-Buwiyat* and assaulted the members of the crew (consisting of 11 Iraqi citizens) by cursing, reviling and striking them and confiscating their fishermen's identity cards and their military service booklets. The bodies of several of the crewmen bear the marks of knife cuts.

These actions by the Kuwaiti authorities, entering Iraq's territorial waters and assaulting Iraqi crew members in those waters, constitute a flagrant violation of the sanctity and sovereignty of Iraq and an act of armed aggression constituting, by the most elementary standards of international intercourse, a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the common custom of nations, all of which clearly state that the use or threat of force against the integrity and independence of any State is inadmissible. In protesting against these acts of aggression on the part of the Kuwaiti authorities, we request that you intervene with the authorities in question with a view to bringing a halt to their incursions into Iraq's territorial waters and committing such acts of intimidation in future. The Government of the Republic of Iraq reserves the full and inalienable right, guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the common custom of nations, to take the necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and the sanctity of its territory and territorial waters, and to seek compensation for the moral and material damage it has sustained as a result of these acts of aggression, in accordance with the principle of international liability.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq